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PTO/SB/30 (10-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/621,788
Filing Date	07/21/2000
First Named Inventor	Daniele Casalini
Art Unit	1712
Examiner Name	C. Keehan
Attorney Docket Number	12707 P03

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted .
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 03-2410 order 12707 3
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 1190 enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Jerry Cohen	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	20,522
Signature		Date	April 28, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Jerry Cohen	Date	4/28/2004
Signature			

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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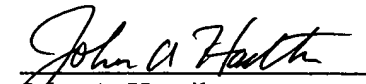
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Application Ser. No.: 09/621,788
Atty. Docket No.: 12707 P03
Reply to Office Action dtd. 28 November 2003



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John A. Hamilton
Reg. No. 48,946

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniele CASALINI	Examiner: C. KEEHAN
Serial No: 09/621,788	Art Unit: 1712
Filed: July 21, 2000	Confirm. No.: 4984
For: SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR THIS, AND USE OF THE SAME	

Perkins, Smith & Cohen, LLP
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 854-4000

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Amendment (D) After Final Office Action Under 37 CFR §1.116

Sir:

This amendment is made in response to the Final Office Action dated November 28, 2003, in the above-captioned U.S. patent application. This amendment is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), a petition for a two-month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$1,190.00 covering the associated fees for the RCE and extension. Any other fees required for consideration of this amendment are authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 12707-P03.

Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-18 are currently pending in the application. Through amendments and the Remarks that follow, the rejections of claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-18 are addressed and overcome.

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Amendments to the claims begin on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 6.